AN EPISTLE

To the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints in France, and the Channel Islands, from the Presidency of the French Mission.

Dear Brethren,

Through the Mercies of our Heavenly Father, we have been preserved through another year. And although we have had to pass through many scenes of trial and difficulty—many temptations and perplexities, calculated in their nature to try us to the utmost, yet the blessings of the Almighty have been with us, his wisdom and power have sustained us. And when we reflect upon the various changes in our circumstances that we have experienced through the past year, we can discover the Kind Providence of God in all things, and we are led to exclaim : Great, Oh Lord ! is thy wisdom—and wonderful is thy providence—for surely all things work together for good to those who love thee, and are called according to the order of the Holy Priesthood, and who strive diligently to keep thy Commaudments.

Let us reflect for a moment upon our present position, as it is with the present we have to do, that we may peradventure learn, by our reflections upon the past and present, to govern ourselves more wisely in the future,—and thus prepare ourselves for greater usefulness in the Kingdom of our God.

What then is our present position ?

We are called to be Saints of God, and to occupy an important, honourable, and responsible standing among the nations of the Earth. We are called to be

lights in those nations where we dwell—to lead the pure, virtuous, and honorable among men, from darkness, ignorance, and confusion, into the Church and Kingdom of God, and thus become subordinately, "Saviours of Men." We have in our possession the principles of Eternal truth, which God hath been pleased in his infinite goodness and mercy to reveal unto us, through his servants the Prophets Joseph, Hyrum, and Brigham, by sending unto them Heavenly Messengers with the Ancient Gospel, with all its gifts, blessings and privileges.—And moreover, the power, and authority, and keys of the Eternal Priesthood. They have thus been empowered by the God of Israel to administer holy ordinances, to establish the Kingdom of God, and to usher in the dispensation of the fulness of times, which is destined to resuscitate and save a fallen and degenerate world, and to establish universal peace and righteouseness upon the whole Earth.

We have been made the happy partakers of these glorious blessings, gifts and favours, and are permitted to share the dangers, difficulties, and sacrifices of the Saints, in order that we may participate, when our work is done, in their honour, Glory, and Salvation in the Celestial Kingdom of our God. Our position is truly an important and honorable one, intrusted as we are with a portion of the Holy Priesthood, and with it, the keys of Salvation of the Kingdon of God, to those nations and Islands unto which we are sent. It is no trifling position that we now occupy upon the Earth. Indeed, a more important and responsible position we never sustained, at least in this probation. A bold, noble and righteous course will lead us to honour, Glory. and Immortality—and will qualify us to be the associates of Angels and Gods,—whilst on the other hand a fearful, ignoble, and unrighteous course would lead us to dishonour, misery, and servitude, in the Kingdom of darkness, and would qualify us to be the companions of fallen Angels and their Princes. We may by faithful obedience to Gods commandments obtain Eternal

Life,—and join in the final song of triumph, and Glory to God and the Lamb,—or, we may by an opposite course bring upon our heads, everlasting shame and disgrace. A faithful and righteous course, and we become Saviours of Men, and Saviours of ourselves. An unfaithful and unrighteous course, and we become destroyers of Men, and destroyers of ourselves.

Let us duly consider these things, and let us each ask the question:—What improvement have I made during the past year? Have I profited by the blessings that God has bestowed upon me? Have I given heed to the whisperings of the Spirit of God in my bosom? Have I been diligent and attentive in going up to the congregations of the Saints? Have I enjoyed the Spirit of prayer so as to hold sweet communion with my Father in Heaven? Have I done all in my power to sustain the work of God? In short, have I sustained by my faith, prayers, and means, those men whom God has sent to bless me with the light of truth, and the blessings of Salvation? And if these inquiries be satisfactorily answered,—then, let each one examine his own heart, and see if there be there any root of bitterness. If there be, pluck it out, and cast it from you, lest in the year upon which we have now entered, it should spring up and trouble you, and peradventure choke and distroy you. Should you find this process of examination profitable, you may further interrogate your Hearts, and should they condemn you, repent. And remember the words of your Prophet Brigham in the tenth General Epistle "Live your religion so manifestly and indisptably, that you may feel the peaceful and purifying fruits of it, and the power thereof, lest temptations seize upon you, that you have not power to withstand, and you lose what you have seemed to gain. Let not your lives be such, that your own Hearts will condemn you, lest he who is greater than your Hearts should prefer charges against you far more and greater than a misty darkened mind has supposed. Brethren! stand forth and

magnify your calling as Saints of the last days—suffer not yourselves to be overcome by the lusts of the flesh, and the temptations of the Evil one. But purge yourselves from the Old Leaven of the Gentiles, from pride, envy, hatred, hypocricy, and all unrighteousness. Let not sin reign in your Hearts, lest your Bodies be defiled, for remember that "ye are the Temples of the Holy Ghost, and he who defileth the Temples of the Holy Spirit, him will God distroy." Do you realize the truth and force of these sayings? If you do, be careful and prayerful, lest ye enter into temptation, and in an unguarded moment fall into transgression, and be led captive by the Devil at his will, and lest he who is able should destroy both Body and Soul in Hell.

Let us now make a brief, and passing survey of the progress of this Mission, and of our movements during our short Presidential Career.

We arrived in Jersey, on the twenty sixth of April eighteen hundred and fifty-three. On the first of May we were duly acknowledged by a General Confereuce, held at Saint Helier's, as the Presidency of this Mission, by virtue of our appoiutment in Salt Lake City, we found the Church in the Channel Islands, though not so well as we could wish, yet more healthy than we had expected. And although, since that time, dark clouds have occasionally cast their gloomy shadows around, and the powers of darkness, have exerted all their influence to rend assunder, and destroy; yet this conference we are happy to say, has emerged brightly from every cloud, and has shown itself superior to every attack. We attended their half yearly conference, on the eight day of January—when we were favoured with the Company, and honoured and blessed by the counsels of Elder Daniel Spencer, of the Presidency of Great Britain. A better conference we believe, was never held, in the Channel Islands, we do not recollect ever witnessing a larger display of faith, wisdom, and determination, than was displayed at this conference, numbers of course being equal. The reports were fa-

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vourable, and showed a steady increase of members. And we feel to say, as a result of our personal observation, that the prospects of this conference are more flattering than at any former period of its History. And we belive this conference, under the wise administration of Elder John Oakley, will soon assume a character and importance, it has never yet sustained.

On the sixth of May, a few days after our arrival in the Islands, we left Jersey to visit other conferences in this Mission, we arrived in Havre on the tenth, and we found the Saints composing this conference in good health and spirits, and firm in the faith, although they had been left several months without a President, we have since placed a good and faithful man over that conference, Elder Thomas Liez.—We have not yet received his conference report, but we learn from private letters—that several have been baptised,—that the conference is extending—and the prospects brightening. And we will say to the credit of the saints, in this conference, that their faith and zeal has become proverbial throughout the Mission. We arrived in Paris on the 12th of May, we found this conference nearly dead. We met with, but few exceptions, a cold repulsive spirit. We have spent several months in the conference since that time. We have baptised some, and have succeeded in resurrecting others, we have a good and faithful man in charge of that conference, Elder John Parson, we expect shortly his conference report but, *en attendant*, we are happy to say his private correspondance furnishes a very satisfactory statement, from which we learn that his prospects are decidedly favourable.

We have sent two Elders to preside over the Bellenger Conference, the first was imprisoned for some weeks—the second was assiduously followed by the Gens d'Armes, until he was obliged to leave the Country, this conference is reported to be in good standing —but circumstances are at present unfavourable to its free developement.

We have sent Elders to other parts of France who have met with more or less success.

We have by the generous assistance of S. W. Richards, discharged the liabilities of this Mission to the Printing Office in Paris.

We have translated and published *the Voice of Warning*—which we advise you to purchase and to circulate as extensively as possible. We have the work upon *Celestial Marriage*, now ready for the press. And several sections of the *Book of Doctrines and Covenents* are already translated, which we hope to publish as soon as circumstances will permit.

You will learn from the above statement, that we have not been inactive, nor unmindful of your interests. And we do not feel to slacken our hands, but rather to renew our efforts, and redouble if possible our diligence, that this Mission may flourish and prosper,

We regret that circumstances have prevented us continuing the publication of the *Etoile du Deseret*, whose place we are happy to say, has been measurably supplied by *The Reflector*, a publication ably edited and published by Elder T. B. H. Stenhouse at Geneva, but we hope ere long to be enabled to publish in this Mission a periodical through which our instructions and counsels may be freely communicated to you as your circumstances may require. In the mean time we wish you to give heed to the instructions contained in the *Millenial Star*, the *Reflector*, the *Book of Mormon*, and all other works published by the Church. And never forget obedience to the teachings aud counsels of the servants of God sent among you.

Your request for a selection of French Hymns, will engage our attentive consideration.

The emigration this year will be on the increase, compared with former emigrations from this Mission, yet not more than 30 or 40 will probably leave, but we wish all the Saints under our Presidency. who have the means to be ready next seasou, let those who have not the necessary means prepare also.—And in order to do

so—we say—keep the Commandments of God—support the cause of truth.—Contribute liberally to the Perpetual Emigration Fund. And let those who have the means help those who have none, or, God will not hold them guiltless.

We are making every arrangement in our power for the emigration of the faithful poor, next year, but we say to all, be diligent and help yourselves, then, God and his servants will help you.

Do not forget Brethren! that t'is your duty to consecrate of your means for the House of the Lord, which is now being reared in the tops of the mountains, that you may have a right to the privileges and blessiugs to be received therein, even salvation for yourselves, for your children and for your dead.

Many great and important events have transpired during the past year, which merit our earnest attention, and deep reflection. When we gaze upon the Godless world—we behold nations exhausting their strength and wealth to impoverish and destroy other nations—we see nearly all the considerable nations of the Earth—endeavouring to league themselves together to carry on more effectually the work of destruction, whilst thousands in those nations are pining for bread—which, although considered the staff of live, is now getting beyond the reach of the starving poor. Flood and Fire, Pestilence and Disease, Earthquake and Famine, with increased and unparalled disasters at Sea, and all the bloody carnage of Civil and Religious wars by land, have darkened the page of History for the past year. Moralists and Philanthrophists inform us that crime is on the increase. We learn from the statistical report of Paris, that upwards of one third of the Children born there are illigitimate.

Members of Peace Societies, and of Governments, are convinced, by stubborn facts, of the insufficiency of arbitration, and the futility of diplomacy to establish peace, since the God of Heaven has let loose upon the world the elements of revolution and destruction. These

agents of distruction and death, although they have been, and are striking terror and dismay in the Hearts of the fearful and ungodly—by their alarming ravages among the nations, have; all served to strengthen the faith of the Saints of God—and to give them an additional testimony to the truth of their holy religion—knowing that these things are but the begining of sorrows that will come upon the ungodly nations. See Matthew 24th

We will now take a brief survey of the Kingdom of God, as now established in the quiet and peaceful vallies of the West, and its astonishing progress among the nations, you may then "Look on this picture and on that."

We learn from the general Epistle—the Desert News, and from private correspondance with which we are favoured from time to time—that unprecedented success and blessings have attended our Brethren during the past year. Their crops have been abundent throughout the Territory. It has been thought by some, that it would be founud difficult to obtain a Market for our surplus provisions, but we are happy to learn that the Market is good. What with our annual emigration, the California emigrants—and the demands of the Officers of the general Government, we have and are still likely to have a constant demand, for all we can supply. Our manufactories are in a prosperous condition, and bid fair ere long to be second to those of no State in the confederation. We hope soon to produce in abundance every manufactured article that we require. The heavy falls of rain the last year swelled the rivers and did some damage in carrying away bridges—but nothing can discourage or daunt our intrepid brethren; good substancial bridges have been erected in their place. Towns, Cities, and villages, are springing up as by enchantment, showing to the worldthe advantages of unity, and fraternity. We have had certain dificulties with the Indians, but they have happily subsided, and as all things must work together for our good, we have as

a result, all our cities and principle establishments fortified, or being fortified—we have moreover among those tribes upwards of eighty Elders, sent by the last October conference, to make known to them the Everlasting Gospel, they being a remnant of the House of Israel, to whom partaineth the blessings and promises. Some thousands of saints have gathered home from distant nations the last year—and we learn from the 10th General Epistle that the presidency intend making increased efforts, for gathering the Saints from these nations the next Emigration Season, which must cause your hearts to rejoice.

It is evident to every careful observer of events that the wisdom, nobility and righteous independence of the authorities of the Utah Territory, are fast gaining the respect, esteem and confidence of the honourable and righteous of all nations, and there is no doubt that as the vast resources of that virgin country are developed, and the policy of the government becomes known that their influence will increase in proportion.

The Church in Great Britain has far exceeded during the past year all her former works of greatness. On the first day of the last year was published a revelation upon *Marriage*, which being followed by ably written works upon the subject, has dissipated clouds of darkness, and has broken down mountains of tradition and prejudice, and stands forth as a *memorial* of the power and influence of revelation from God, over the saints of the last days—this coupled with the increase of members and the extensive emigration has given influence and character to the British Mission, and has stamped a bold page in British History for the last year never to be forgotten.

The Church in Scandinavia notwithstanding mobbings and imprisonments has grown with astonishing rapidity. Between five and six hundred we learn are now on their way from that Mission to the Vallies of the Mountains.

Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Malta, India, Australia and the Sandwich and Society Islands, with other nations, are sending or preparing to send their noble sons

and daughters to Zion, and are thus waking up the people to a sense of the true position of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints.

Let these things encourage us to zeal and faithfulness during the coming year, lest, in the mighty progress of the Kingdom of God, among the nations, we he left behind and forgotten, or lest the talent intrusted to us be taken away and given to another, or lest the judgements of God overtake us and we he cast down into Hell.

Elder Wm. Taylor, in consequence of ill health, is counselled to return home this season. Let the saints be faithful in blessing him as he as been in blessing them, and they shall not loose their reward.

Elder James H. Hart is appointed to visit the several conferences of this Mission, and to extend his labours into Belgium as soon as circumstances will permit. Let the Presidents of Conferences and travelling Elders teach the Saints under their charge to be subject in all things to the Powers that be—and that they honour their laws by a ready obedience to all requirements upon them, as English or French Citizens. If those requirments be not just, God will require it at the hands of those authorities.

Remember! Brethren! the instructions you have received from time to time.—Treasure up the revelations of God in your Hearts,—prepare yourselves by study of sciences and languages, and by reflection and prayer for greater usefulness. Stand forth boldly in defence of the Prophets Joseph and Brigham, and the holy principles they have taught.—Be obedient to the counsels of your brethren, and sustain each other.—And if you will do these things the spirit of God shall rest upon you and your families, and all that you possess. And you shall never be confounded worlds without end.—Amen.

We remain, your affectionate Brethren,

ANDREW L. LAMOREAUX,
JAMES H. HART,
LOUIS A. BERTRAND,
WILLIAM TAYLOR.

Saint Helier's, Jersey, January 2nd, 1854.